

Kenilworth School District No. 38-Annual Parent Survey 2014 Executive Summary

The Kenilworth School District No. 38 Board of Education annually solicits community feedback in the form of a parent survey. We continue to modify the format of the survey to best capture useful feedback from our Parent Community. This year we sent the survey to 298 households representing 523 registered students and asked parents to complete the general section of the survey once, then complete the grade specific portion of the survey for each one of their children. We received 256 responses to the general portion this year and assumed that it was appropriate for 1 member of each household to complete the survey. Based on these assumptions, we received surveys from 86% of households in the District. In June 2013, we administered a short survey and received 121 responses representing 37% of households. In June 2012, we conducted the long survey with a response rate of close to 49% and in 2011 we conducted the short survey with a response rate of 24%.

We would like to thank all those who participated. The full results of the survey are provided to each Board of Education member and are reviewed in detail by the Communication Committee of the Board. These results are also carefully reviewed by the Administration and shared with the faculty when appropriate. The feedback is highly valued as a tool for monitoring community opinion, preference and perception with regard to our school's educational culture and performance.

Some key highlights from the survey include:

- Communication and transparency between the Board of Education and community have improved this year. Parents cited Community Forums and Board Briefs as effective methods of communication.
- Communication between the Administration and community is also improving with more work to do in this area.
- Almost two-thirds of respondents thought the Kenilworth School District has been fiscally responsible this past year.
- Over 92% of parents rated the Joseph Sears School as Excellent or Good overall.
- An overwhelmingly number of respondents praised the faculty as the greatest strength at Sears School. The parents highlighted the warmth, dedication, skill and sincerity of the faculty. Other key strengths included parent involvement, small class sizes, Kindergarten thru 8th grade offering, and high level of education offered to students.
- The most frequently mentioned concern from parents is focused on longevity and stability within the school leadership. However, parents commented that they are optimistic about the changes in place for the 2014-2015 school year. Other key concerns included a desire for more academic rigor with more emphasis on and continued improvement of math and science especially in the Junior High and more opportunities for enrichment and gifted services.
- A majority of respondents rated favorably (Excellent or Good) their children's school year and felt their children were sufficiently challenged.
- The new math curriculum was well received by parents this past year with greater satisfaction from parents with children in grades Kindergarten-2nd versus 3rd-5th grade.
- The new science curriculum for Junior High (IQWST) was met with mixed feedback from parents with about 50% rating the program as Excellent or Good.

The following summarizes the responses to the Annual Parent Survey.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. During the past year we have updated the Sears to Home and our website to match various reading formats (mobile, iPad, computer) and to improve our communications with parents, students, faculty and staff. Please rate your satisfaction with these methods of communication.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion/ Don't Know	Rating Count
Sears to Home	47.11%	45.04%	4.55%	2.48%	0.83%	242
Website	27.24%	52.03%	13.82%	4.47%	2.44%	246

Over 92% of respondents rate the Sears to Home as Excellent or Good while over 79% rate the website as Excellent or Good. Of the 40 individual comments that were made about Sears to Home and the new website, seven were positive, 27 shared issues or dislikes and six were suggestions for improvements. Some respondents commented on liking the new Sears to Home format and found it easy to read on their mobile devices. The majority of comments shared focused on dislikes with the new website such as ease of navigation with the three tabs, and difficulty finding information. There were also dislikes with Sears to Home including difficulty reading it on a specific mobile device, the email going into a junk folder or pertinent information not being highlighted. Some commented that it is still hard to find important dates and announcements and the website is not updated frequently enough. Suggestions included a desire to see more information posted by teachers and more frequent updates to the calendar.

2. Please indicate how often you use each of the following Board of Education (BOE) communications and provide comments to their effectiveness.

	Often	Seldom	Never	No Opinion/ Don't Know	Rating Count
Board Meeting Agendas	22.27%	49.61%	21.09%	7.03%	256
Board Meeting Minutes	28.91%	44.53%	19.92%	6.64%	256
Monthly Board Briefs	48.83%	31.25%	14.069%	5.86%	256
Board Mtg Videotape	7.42%	25.39%	58.98%	8.20%	256
Board Mtg Live Streaming	6.64%	19.14%	65.23%	8.98%	256
Board Annual Report	24.61%	42.19%	25.78%	7.42%	256
listen@kenilworth38.org	2.34%	23.44%	58.59%	15.63%	256

The monthly Board Briefs are the most frequently used method of communication between the BOE and the community with almost 50% of respondents citing they use them often. BOE Agendas and Minutes are also frequently reviewed by many parents with the BOE Videotape, Live Streaming and listen@kenilworth38.org methods of communication being used the least. There were 18 comments to this question. Twelve comments were positive highlighting the improved transparency of the Board, the Board Briefs being succinct and informative and the Live Streaming being valuable. Parents commented that those who use the videotape and live streaming value having that made available to them even if they don't use it often. Four comments acknowledged that parents were unaware of the listen@kenilworth38.org email address and Live Streaming availability and two comments were constructive without a specific theme. In the 2013 Parent Survey the following communications were Often used by respondents: 48% for Board Briefs, 30% for Board Agendas, 26% for Board Minutes, 18.5% for Videotape, 11.8% for Board Live Streaming and 42% for Annual Report.

3. Did you attend one or more of the community forums this year?

Yes	No	Rating Count
36.61%	63.39%	254

4. If so, did you find the forum(s) beneficial

Yes	No	Rating Count
82.08%	17.92%	106

5. How likely are you to attend a community forum in the future?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Highly unlikely	No opinion/ Don't know	Rating Count
Likelihood	31.50%	52.76%	9.84	5.91%	254

Only about 37% of respondents attended one of the community forums this year but of those who attended, over 80% found the forums beneficial. And over 80% cited that they would be Very or Somewhat Likely to attend a community forum in the future. There were 20 specific comments of which seven were positive, two were negative, one was a suggestion and nine could not be categorized. The comments highlighted a desire to set issues/topics for discussion, the principal forums being very important and a desire for the BOE to create a more open and positive atmosphere whereby parent voices can be heard.

6. The Board of Education envisions a culture whereby there is transparency in the decision-making after careful consideration of alternatives. Please indicate your satisfaction with the transparency of deliberations and decision-making.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Rating Count
Transparency	18.37%	46.53%	19.59%	8.57%	6.94%	245

Around 65% of respondents rated the BOE's transparency as Excellent or Good. There were 30 comments to this question with 20 of them being positive, eight constructive, one suggestion and one uncategorized. Respondents commented that great strides are being made in this area, the process for hiring the new principal was well managed and they are experiencing better overall communication, responsiveness and trust with the BOE. Some parents felt like the BOE is improving in this area but there is more work to be done. And constructive feedback included a desire for more upfront communication with parents on key decisions being made, more visibility in decision making and a greater understanding of how the school functions and makes key decisions. A few parents commented that they would like more transparency as it relates to changes in the administration and teacher assignments.

7. Improving the culture within the Joseph Sears School has been a key component of our Strategic Plan. The following questions focus on the students. Please rate your agreement with each statement.

My child(ren) understands and practices the four Cornerstone Behaviors (Honesty, Kindness, Respect, Responsibility).

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Rating Count
47.35%	44.90%	6.53%	1.22%	0.00%	245

My child(ren) practices age appropriate self-assessment, goal-setting and self-advocacy.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Rating Count
39.92%	46.50%	11.52%	2.06%	0.00%	243

My child(ren) understands the definition of bullying and procedures for how to handle it.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Rating Count
42.45%	46.53%	9.80%	1.22%	0.00%	245

The playground and lunch rules are fair and appropriate

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Rating Count
25.00%	43.03%	20.90%	9.84%	1.23%	244

(Junior High Only) Discipline is delivered in a fair and consistent manner for Junior High students.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Rating Count
17.69%	31.97%	33.33%	11.56%	5.44%	147

Over 92% of parents Strongly Agree/Agree that their children understand the four Cornerstone Behaviors. Over 86% of parents Strongly Agree/Agree that their children practice age appropriate self-assessment, goal setting and self-advocacy. Almost 89% of parents Strongly Agree/Agree that their children understand the definition of bullying and procedures for handling it. While 68% of parents Strongly Agree/Agree that the playground and lunch rules are fair and appropriate. Around 50% of parents with Junior High students Strongly Agree/Agree that discipline is delivered in a fair and consistent manner. There were 31 comments to this question with three positive comments, 17 constructive comments, four suggestions and seven uncategorized. Most of the comments related to recess/lunch, bullying, dress code and cell phone usage. Some parents commented that the lunchroom discipline is too harsh. Comments regarding recess were split between a need for more supervision versus too many restrictions on the playground. There were a handful of comments that bullying still exists and the policies are not properly monitored. Comments were also made that the dress code enforcement is inconsistent and there needs to be a clear statement and enforcement of the policy. Finally, a few comments were made that lunchtime should be device-free.

8. The following questions continue to focus on the culture at Sears with an emphasis on the parent and community members. Please rate your agreement with the following statements:

The Board of Education communicates in an open, honest, respectful and timely manner with the community.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion/ don't know	Rating Count
26.53%	48.57%	16.73%	2.86%	1.22%	4.08%	245

The Administration communicates in an open, honest, respectful and timely manner with the community.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion/ don't know	Rating Count
13.06%	46.12%	22.04%	11.84%	3.67%	3.27%	245

I understand and practice the appropriate ways to communicate with Faculty and Administration.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion/ don't know	Rating Count
32.38%	48.36%	14.34%	2.46%	0.00%	2.46%	244

I believe that I communicate with all stakeholders in the Sears' community in a fair and respectful manner.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion/ don't know	Rating Count
39.51%	45.27%	11.93%	0.82%	0.41%	2.06%	243

About 75% of respondents Strongly Agree/Agree the BOE communicates in an open, honest, respectful and timely manner with the community. About 59% of respondents Strongly Agree/Agree that the Administration communicates in an open, honest, respectful and timely manner with the community. While 81% of parents Strongly Agree/Agree that they understand and practice appropriate ways to communicate with Faculty and Administration. Finally, around 85% of parents Strongly Agree/Agree that they communicate with all stakeholders in the Sears' community in a fair and respectful manner. The comments section for this question was inadvertently left off of the survey; therefore, specific comments from the parents were not collected. We apologize for this error and always welcome feedback regarding how the Board of Education and Administration interact with the parent community.

9. For the 11th year in a row, the State Board of Education has awarded the Kenilworth School District with the highest financial rating. Do you think that the District has been fiscally responsible this past year?

Yes	No	Unsure	Rating Count
62.81%	5.37%	31.82%	242

About 63% of respondents believe that the District has been fiscally responsible while 5% disagreed with that and 32% were unsure. In the 2013 Parent Survey, 50% of respondents believed the District had been fiscally responsible while 17% disagreed and 33% were unsure. There were 19 comments to this question with three positive, nine constructive, three suggestions and three uncategorized. The positive comments highlighted improvements in fiscal responsibility. Constructive comments raised concerns about the number of administrators the District employs and the compensation of some administrators being too high. Suggestions included how funds are allocated and what the parent organizations fund at the school.

10. Our Student Services Department consists of our Special Education Teachers, Literacy Specialists, School Social Workers, School Psychologist and School Nurse. Please rate the effectiveness of their services.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Rating Count
Student Services	43.39%	37.19%	5.79%	2.07%	11.57%	242

Over 80% of respondents rated the Student Services Department as Excellent or Good. There were 30 comments with 14 positive, six both positive and critical, four critical, three suggestions and three uncategorized. Positive comments included praise for the school

nurse, as well as overall compliments for a very effective, wonderful Student Services team. Some concerns were raised that certain aspects of the department could be improved.

11. How would you rate the Joseph Sears School overall?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Rating Count
Overall School	52.07%	40.08%	6.61%	0.41%	0.83%	242

Over 52% rated the Joseph Sears School as Excellent with another 40% rating it as Good. There were 24 comments to this question: six positive, nine constructive, two both positive and constructive, five suggestions and two uncategorized. Positive comments were primarily focused on the teachers, as well as enrichment opportunities and Student Services. Concerns were raised regarding the school leadership, teacher morale, and weakness in the science programs. In addition parents commented that they would like to see more emphasis on students who excel and/or are gifted along with more student/teacher partnership. And some parents felt that the curriculum was not diversified enough.

12. What do you think is especially good about Sears School?

There were 178 responses to this question with almost 100 responses focused on the dedicated, caring, sincere, and skilled faculty at the Joseph Sears School. Other top themes included the parent involvement, supportive small community, high level of education offered to students, size of school and Kindergarten through 8th grade offering, small class sizes, special services and attention to individual needs of students. Parents praised the warm, safe, nurturing and secure environment of the school along with the high standards for arts and quality of the music program.

13. What would you like to see changed or improved?

There were 159 responses to this question with a wide variety of topics mentioned. The most frequent response focused on the need for longevity and stability within the administration and a more cohesive leadership team. The parents mentioned that they are optimistic about the new principal. Another key theme was a need for more academic rigor with a desire for more emphasis on and continued improvement of math and science, especially in the Junior High. Similarly, there were several comments regarding a need for improved services for gifted students and involvement at earlier ages. Respondents also commented on a desire for improved lunchroom facilities and a full hot lunch program. Two other key themes were around a consideration for better teacher reviews and accountability along with reducing the amount of parent involvement at times.

CATEGORY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

14. Overall, how would you rate your child's school year?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Rating Count
Grades K-2	60%	36%	0.0%	3%	1%	163
Grades 3-5	56%	36%	4%	3%	1%	113
Grades 6-8	31%	53%	12%	4%	0%	124

There were 163 responses for K-2nd grade parents and 96% of these respondents rated their K-2nd grade child's school year as Excellent or Good. There were 21 comments made with 16 positive, three constructive, one suggestion and one uncategorized. The positive comments praised specific teachers, full-day kindergarten and the overall kindergarten experience. A few constructive comments were about a child's experience not being positive this past school year.

There were 113 responses for grades 3-5th and 92% of these respondents rated their 3-5th grade child's school year as Excellent or Good. There were 13 comments from these parents with 11 positive and two constructive. All of the positive comments were focused on teachers being excellent. The constructive feedback included a desire for more challenging academics and less homework in 5th grade.

There were 124 responses for grades 6-8th and 84% of these respondents rated their 6-8th grade child's school year as Excellent or Good with 12% rating it Poor. There were 11 comments from parents of which six were positive, two were constructive and three were both positive and constructive. Comments were mixed from these parents regarding the transition to Junior High going smoothly for some children while it was more challenging for others. Comments were also varied as it relates to the curriculum and teachers with some praise as well as a desire to see stronger academics.

In the 2013 Parent Survey the information was collected differently but the ratings were very similar with a range of 85-94% rating their child's school year as Excellent or Good.

15. Overall, was your child sufficiently challenged academically during this past school year?

	Yes	No	Unsure	Rating Count
K-2	85.0%	7.4%	8.0%	163
3-5	87.0%	8.8%	4.4%	114
6-8	83.0%	9.7%	7.3%	124

The majority of respondents felt their child was sufficiently challenged across all grade levels this past school year. There were 15 comments from the K-2nd grade parents with three positive, three constructive, seven suggestions and two uncategorized. A few K-2 parents suggested that their child could have been more challenged at times. Some K-2 parents mentioned that they would like more information about enrichment opportunities and more gifted and/or enrichment opportunities offered to their children. Parents also commented about being impressed by the current curriculum in grades K-2.

There were 15 comments shared by 3-5th grade parents with seven positive, five constructive and three suggestions. Some parents with children in grades 3-5th commented that the differentiation was good and that their child's teacher understood their needs. While other 3-5th grade parents felt that there could have been more effective RtI. Comments from these parents were also split as it relates to homework with some believing there is too much homework in 5th grade while others wanting to see more challenging homework. A few 3-5th grade parents also commented that math was not challenging enough this past school year.

There were 24 comments from parents with students in grades 6-8th. Seven of these comments were positive, five were negative, nine with both positive and negative and three were suggestions. Comments from 6-8th grade parents were mixed between their child being appropriately challenged and a desire for more enrichment and academic rigor along with improved science curriculum and instruction.

In the 2013 Parent Survey the information was collected differently but the ratings ranged from 68-79% of respondents feeling that their child was sufficiently challenged during the past school year.

16. Are you satisfied with the integration of technology in your child's classroom and assignments?

	Yes	No	Unsure	Rating Count
K-2	86%	4%	10%	163
3-5	86%	5%	9%	114
6-8	85%	6%	9%	124

The majority of respondents were satisfied with the integrations of technology across all grade levels this past school year. There were seven comments from K-2nd grade parents. Comments were split between support and lack of support for iPad usage in the classroom for grades K-2. There were 11 comments made by 3-5th grade parents with four positive, three constructive and four suggestions. Some parents of 3-5th grade students commented that technology usage is a strength at Sears and it increases their child's interest in learning. They also liked the use of Google docs for assignments. A few comments cautioned that technology should not take the place of learning and at times, there can be too much free time on the iPads. There were 14 comments from 6-8th grade parents of which three were positive, six were constructive, three were suggestions and two were uncategorized. Parents commented positively about Google docs and the nice integration of technology. Some commented that the technology usage was not strong enough, and that there should be a balance between technology and non-technology focused projects.

17. For this school year we have an updated Homework Policy with recommended amounts of time students should spend studying at home for each level. Is your child's quantity of homework in line with these guidelines?

	Yes	No	Unsure	Rating Count
K-2	83%	6%	11%	163
3-5	81%	15%	4%	114
6-8	67%	27%	6%	124

For parents with students in grades K-2, 83% of respondents felt the quantity of homework was in line with the Homework Policy guidelines. There were 12 comments from K-2nd grade with the majority offering their perspective on what type of homework their child completes if any. A few parents mentioned that the homework was lower than the guidelines but that was not of concern to them. However, a few parents with children in grades K-2 would like to see a bit more homework.

For parents with students in grades 3-5th, 81% of respondents felt that the quantity of homework was in line with the policy. There were 17 comments to this question with very mixed views on whether or not homework was in line with the policy. Comments from these parents were split between amount of homework being appropriate primarily for 3rd grade while others felt it was more than the policy and/or inconsistent primarily for 5th grade.

For parents with students in grades 6-8th, 67% of respondents felt that the quantity of homework was in line with the policy. There were 32 comments for this particular question of which five parents thought homework was in line with guidelines, 19 felt there was too much homework, one parent thought there was not enough, three parents had mixed feedback, two were unsure, and two were uncategorized.

18. Does the quality of your child's homework emphasize real learning and reinforcement?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Rating Count
K-2	32%	40%	22%	4%	1%	163
3-5	25%	55%	13%	7%	0%	114
6-8	20%	48%	26%	4%	2%	124

For parents with students in grades K-2nd, 72% of respondents Strongly Agree/Agree that their child's homework emphasizes real learning. Of the 11 comments from K-2 parents there was mixed feedback about the math homework and some parents feel homework is not challenging enough and therefore kids do not take it seriously.

For parents with students in grades 3-5th, 80% of respondents Strongly Agree/Agree that their child's homework emphasizes real learning. There were eight comments for this particular question. Comments were split between the content of homework being good versus busy work with too much rote learning.

For parents with students in grades 6-8th, 68% of respondents Strongly Agree/Agree that their child's homework emphasized real learning. There were 15 comments made by parents of which nine were both constructive and positive, four were constructive and two were positive. Constructive comments were made about homework being busy work and quantity was emphasized over quality. Some comments mentioned that the homework was not challenging enough while others mentioned it was purposeful.

19. As a parent, I am involved in the completion of my child's assignments as follows:

	Actively involved	Minimally involved	Not involved	Rating Count
K-2	44%	43%	13%	163
3-5	25%	58%	17%	114
6-8	15%	43%	42%	124

As expected, parent involvement in the younger grades is the highest with that declining, as the children get older. Parents with K-2 children shared 19 comments with a wide perspective on how they help with homework. Some parents commented that they serve as a coach as well as making sure it's complete. A few K-2 parents commented that they check the homework for accuracy.

There were 16 comments from parents with students in 3-5th grade. Parents commented that they get involved when asked by the child and allow for the child to manage the homework independently while a few mentioned they tend to be more involved. A few commented that they do not check the homework for accuracy but rather make sure it is done.

There were 14 comments from 6-8th grade parents all focused on how much they are involved with homework. The majority of 6-8th grade parents commented that they provide encouragement and help when necessary but prefer to have their child manage their homework independently.

20. Has your child's teacher effectively communicated with you this year?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Rating Count
K-2	69%	20%	7%	2%	1%	163
3-5	64%	25%	8%	2%	2%	114
6-8	27%	35%	27%	7%	3%	124

For parents with children in grades K-2nd, 89% of respondents felt that communication with the teacher was Excellent or Good this year. There were 14 comments from K-2nd grade parents with nine positive, three critical, one suggestion and one uncategorized. There were several positive comments from these parents regarding regular communication.

For parents with children in grades 3-5th, 89% of respondents felt that communication with the teacher was Excellent or Good. There were 14 comments to this particular question with 11 positive, two constructive and one uncategorized. The majority of positive

comments were made about excellent communication that was timely and detailed along with response time to questions and requests being reasonable. A few comments were made that communication could have been better.

For parents with children in grades 6-8th, 62% of respondents felt that communication with their teachers was Excellent or Good. There were 24 comments to this question focused on frequency of communication and how the teachers communicate with parents. The majority of respondents commented that there was little communication other than conference time and that teachers tend to not communicate with parents unless the parents initiate the interaction. However, parents mentioned that if they initiate an interaction that the teachers have been responsive.

21. During Parent/Teacher Conferences please rate the discussion of the following topics for your child regarding:

Academic Progress	Adequate	Not enough info	Not Discussed	Rating Count
K-2	93%	6%	2%	163
3-5	95%	2%	3%	114
6-8	91%	7%	2%	124

Social Emotional	Adequate	Not enough info	Not Discussed	Rating Count
K-2	94%	4%	2%	163
3-5	92%	4%	4%	113
6-8	70%	15%	15%	124

Standardized Tests	Adequate	Not enough info	Not Discussed	Rating Count
K-2	64%	9%	28%	160
3-5	85%	11%	4%	114
6-8	67%	18%	15%	124

Enrichment opportunities	Adequate	Not enough info	Not Discussed	Rating Count
K-2	71%	14%	15%	161
3-5	68%	20%	12%	114
6-8	49%	22%	29%	124

The majority of parents with children in grades K-2 felt that academic progress and social emotional topics were discussed adequately. Two-thirds of these parents believed discussion about standardized tests was adequate while a slightly higher percentage thought discussion on enrichment opportunities was adequate.

The majority of parents with children in grades 3-5 felt that academic progress, social emotional topics and standardized tests were adequately discussed. Fewer parents (71%) felt that enrichment opportunities were adequately discussed.

The majority of parents with children in grades 6-8 felt that academic progress was adequately discussed. 69% of 6-8th grade parents believed social emotional topics were adequately discussed and 67% of these parents believed standardized tests were adequately discussed. Only 49% of 6-8th grade parents believed enrichment opportunities were adequately discussed while 22% felt they did not receive enough information 29% said it was not discussed at all.

22. Math in Focus and Everyday Count Calendar Math is a new math curriculum that was implemented for grades K-5 this year. Please rate your satisfaction with the new program.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Rating Count
K-2	42%	36%	6%	5%	12%	163
3-5	25%	38%	19%	8%	11%	114

About 78% of parents with children in grades K-2nd rated their satisfaction with the new math curriculum as Excellent or Good. There were 19 comments from K-2nd grade parents with seven positive, four constructive, three positive and constructive, two suggestions, and three uncategorized. Positive comments included that it was a great overall program, very challenging and a particular satisfaction with the Calendar Counts portion of the curriculum. Some commented that the program could be more challenging and that some materials could be improved. A few commented that Math in Focus was unwieldy, included unnecessary steps and was difficult to understand at times.

About 25% of parents with children in grades 3-5th rated the new math curriculum as Excellent while 38% of parents rated it Good and 19% rating it Poor. Of the 22 comments made by parents, seven were positive, six were constructive, four offered suggestions and five could not be categorized. Positive comments were made about it being a comprehensive, good program that teaches the children multiple ways to think and solve problems and that it is a challenging and strong program with a learning curve that did level out. Constructive comments included a desire for more differentiation, that the program is extremely challenging, can be confusing with not enough instruction in class and that the program did not live up to expectations.

23. Junior High Only: Response to Intervention (RtI) (Enrichment) is defined as a program that focuses on the individual needs of students. Has your child had experience with RtI and/or Enrichment during this school year?

	Yes	No	Unsure	Rating Count
RtI	48%	38%	14%	124

Almost half of the respondents with 6-8th grade students believe their child has experienced RtI this past school year. There were 16 comments that varied on this topic of which six were positive, five constructive, two mixed and three unsure. Some praised the Student Services teachers for doing a wonderful job with RtI especially as it relates to providing additional support for students with needs. While others raised concerns that for higher performers it is not clear how a student qualifies for enrichment and what the opportunities are for that student. In addition, there is a concern that the enrichment

opportunities will add to an already heavy workload with more homework rather than deepening of a topic.

In the 2013 Parent Survey this information was collected differently but the ratings ranged from 33-43% of parents responding that their child had experienced RtI.

24. During the past school year, the Junior High has been piloting a new science program called IQWST or Investigating and Questioning Our World through Science. Please rate your satisfaction with the pilot program

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	Rating Count
IQWST	18%	32%	21%	11%	18%	124

Ratings and comments were widely varied to this question. About 50% of parents rated the new science curriculum as Excellent or Good while 32% rated it Fair/Poor and 18% offered No Opinion. There were 29 comments to this question of which 11 were positive, 11 were negative, three were mixed and four were unsure. Some comments praised the new science program and teachers for a more engaging program, better materials, and challenging curriculum. Parents commented that the program did improve as the year progressed. Some commented that the program was not well received by their child and that it was too challenging for some students.

Once again, we would like to thank those parents who participated in the survey. All of the data and comments are reviewed carefully and help to provide direction to the Board of Education and Administration. The more parents that participate in the survey, the better we are able to respond to consensus concerns and determine the priorities parents have for the children of the Kenilworth School District No. 38 and the Joseph Sears School.

Best regards,
Communications Committee-Board of Education
Betsy Moerschel
Suzanne Nelson
Dr. Christine Stoll